

## STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1951. - (PRELIMINARY)

The following preliminary particulars for 1951 are published subject to slight revision, with particulars for 1950 in parentheses.

Births Registered. - The number of births registered was 17,464 (17,306) an increase of 158. For the years 1929 to 1941, the number of births was lower than in earlier years and in 1935 there were only 8,270 which was the lowest since 1876. From 1936 onwards there has been almost a continuous increase to the record total of 17,464 in 1951. Although the actual number registered was a record, the rate per 1,000 of mean population of 24.26 (24.72) was much lower than in the earlier years of the State and it also was lower than the rates in 1946, 1947 and 1950.

Actual Births. A period of 42 days after birth is permitted for registration and the number of births registered in a year therefore differs from the number of births actually occurring during the year. The numbers of registered and actual births during recent years have been:- 1947 - 16,317 and 16,191; 1948 - 15,870 and 16,091; 1949 - 16,042 and 16,202; 1950 - 17,306 and 17,317. The number of actual births for 1951 is not yet available.

Sexes of Births. The number of boys compared with 100 girls born does not vary greatly and in recent years has been:- 1949 - 105.64; 1950 - 105.39 and 1951 - 105.48.

Adoptions. 404 (398) children were legally adopted during the year.

Legitimations numbered 37 (33).

Deaths Registered. 7,184 (6,740), an increase of 444 on the record total of the previous year. Although the number registered was a record, the rate of 9.98 (9.63) has been exceeded 5 times since 1940 and in most years prior to 1922. From 1922 to 1940 there was a continuous period of low death rates, falling as low as 8.44 in 1933. The highest rate in recent years was 11.02 in 1942. The numbers dying from the various causes are not yet available for 1951 and hence comparisons cannot be made.

Infantile Mortality. Deaths of children under 1 year were 428 (416). The infantile death rate, or the number of deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births during the year of calculation, was 24.51 (24.04). The 1950 rate was a record low for the State and the 1951 is the 3rd lowest. The S.A. rate is one of the lowest in the world and has shown a remarkable decrease. Eighty years ago it was 150, sixty years ago it was 100, thirty years ago it was 60 and 25 years ago it was about double the present rate.

There were 124 (145) deaths of children under 1 day, 161 (158) of children from 1 day to 1 month and 143 (113) of those from 1 month but under 1 year. Compared with earlier years there has been a distinct decrease in the death rate of children under 1 month but a far greater decrease in respect to children from 1 month and under 1 year.

Deaths of infants from principal causes for 1951 (1950) have been:- Diarrhoea 18 (41), Congenital Malformations 63 (64), Prematurity 122 (124), Injury at birth 49 (41), Other diseases peculiar to early infancy 56 (76), Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis 2 (-), Meningitis 5 (2), Whooping Cough 2 (-), Diphtheria 1 (-), Measles - (-), Pneumonia 57 (27) Hernia & Intestinal obstruction 5 (5) and all other causes 48 (36)

Still Births. These are not included in either births or deaths and they numbered 316 (325).

Marriages. The number of marriages celebrated was 6,646 (6,585) and the rate per 1,000 of population was 9.23 (9.41). The record number of marriages was 8,129 with a rate of 13.34 in 1942 and the lowest in recent years was 5,321 with a rate of 8.48 in 1945. Marriages in the Registration Office totalled 776 (677).

SUMMARY RETURN. The following return shows the number of births deaths and marriages, the rate per 1,000 of mean population, the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

PERIOD	BIRTHS REGISTERED		MARRIAGES		DEATHS REGISTERED			
					Total		Infants	
	No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(b)
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
1935-39	9,039	15.32	5,305	8.99	5,430	9.20	297	32.85
1940-44	11,743	19.30	6,843	11.25	6,235	10.25	406	34.57
1945-49	15,613	24.09	6,328	9.77	6,369	9.83	427	27.33
Year								
1947	16,317	25.25	6,668	10.32	6,215	9.62	396	24.27
1948	15,870	24.11	6,704	10.18	6,748	10.25	472	29.74
1949	16,042	23.80	6,247	9.27	6,373	9.45	445	27.74
1950	17,306	24.72	6,585	9.41	6,740	9.63	416	24.04
1951	17,464	24.26	6,646	9.23	7,184	9.98	428	24.51

(a) Per 1,000 of Mean Population.

(b) Per 1,000 Births.

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25th January, 1952.